

URBAN APPALACHIAN COUNCIL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

February 28, 2005

DRAFT

Present: John Besl, John Bryant, Roberta Campbell (Board Liaison), Bonnie Kroeger, Bob Ludke, Ann McCracken, Phillip Obermiller, Kay Russ, Margaret Shank, Maureen Sullivan (Executive Director), Christine Walton, Debbie Zorn,

Debbie Zorn chaired the meeting in the absence of Chair Tammy Schwartz. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Research activities:

John Besl has been looking at the National Birth File data for the Center for Disease Control to see what demographics are associated with low birth rate. Bob Ludke is still involved in community health status research. Plans are to include a pilot test of Phil Obermiller's newest definition of Appalachians as well as the traditional definition. Chris Walton is working on her doctoral research on the professional storytellers of the Greater Cincinnati area. Bonnie Kroeger is involved in trying to convince the Cincinnati Public School district to expand Oyer Elementary school to a k-12 school. Bonnie reported that some students of Tammy Schwarz at Miami University are working with high school males at the East End Heritage School. Kay Russ's doctoral study involves discovering how Appalachian culture is associated with career choice at Goshen High School and she also is using the newer definition of Appalachians. Maureen Sullivan will be working with Roberta Campbell to develop an oral history study of women involved in advocacy groups in Lower Price Hill.

Phil reported that he was contacted by a lawyer working on a capital case in Birmingham, Alabama, regarding whether Appalachian culture might be the reason for a man running from a police officer. Phil noted that there was a precedent set for culture making a difference in Indiana.

Presentation by John Bryant:

John is working on an article regarding the intervention strategies to keep students in the Cincinnati Public School System. Using data collected during the years he was the Director of the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, John suggests that these strategies do not work. John asked for feedback from the committee and received several suggestions including Phil's suggestion that John actually could get two different types of articles out of the work he had done so far. Additional suggestions can be sent to John at his email address.

Announcements:

Phil updated the committee on the 2006 Appalachian Studies Association Conference to be held at Sinclair College in Dayton, Ohio. Fund-raising efforts need to begin and Phil asked for letters of support by March 15, 2005. The Ohio Invitational Crafts Show will have a citywide event Dayton which includes the Sinclair campus.

Future Meetings:

Possible presenters include the Women's Wellness Group, Karen Titsworth, Tammy Schwarz, Kay Russ, or Chris Walton.

We may also put together a Research Bulletin in time for the 2006 ASA conference.

The next meeting of the Research Committee will likely be held on the last Monday of April.

Respectfully submitted by Roberta M. Campbell, April 8, 2005